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FM THE SITUATION ROOM//TOHAK 66//

TO COVEY/PASSAGE/RODMAN FOR THE SECRETARY

UNCLAS VIA BLACK PATCH WH81343

TOHAK 66

FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT
TO: SECRETARY KISSINGER

SCRANTON
UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. (AP)--U.S. AMBASSADOR WILLIAM W. SCRANTON
SAID TODAY THE KISSINGER MISSION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA COULD HAVE
A "PROFOUND EFFECT" ON THE CURRENT GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

SCRANTON TERMED SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER'S
EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THE RACE CONFLICT IN SOUTHERN AFRICA "PROBABLY
THE MOST COURAGEOUS AND MOST DIFFICULT DIPLOMATIC MISSION
WE HAVE EVER HAD."

THE DRIVE AGAINST WHITE MINORITY RULE IN RHODESIA, SOUTH
AFRICA AND NAMIBIA (SOUTH-WEST AFRICA) IS EXPECTED TO DOMINATE
THIS YEAR'S ASSEMBLY, AND THE SUCCESS OR FAILURE OF KISSINGER'S
MEDIATION IS BEING CAREFULLY WATCHED HERE TO SET THE TONE AND
DIRECTION OF SUBSEQUENT ACTION.

SCRANTON TOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE THE DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTHERN
AFRICA AND THE STATE OF FLUX IN TWO OTHER KEY ISSUES--THE MIDDLE
EAST AND THE RICH-POOR DIALOGUE--MADE IT DIFFICULT TO FORECAST
THE SHAPE OF THE 13-WEEK MEETING OF THE 145 U.N. MEMBERS, WHICH
OPENED TUESDAY.

ASSEMBLIES IN RECENT YEARS HAVE TURNED INTO BITTER CONFRONT-
ATIONS BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING STATES OVER QUESTIONS
LIKE PALESTINE AND DECOLONIALIZATION.

SCRANTON NOTED THAT TWO OF THE MOST ACRIMONIOUS ISSUES OF
THE PAST--KOREA AND THE "SELF-DETERMINATION" OF PUERTO RICO--

***** WHSR COMMENT *****

HYLAND, MCFARLANE, SDO, SECPL (4)

RECALLED
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WERE NOT ON THIS YEAR'S AGENDA.

BACKERS OF NORTH KOREA WITHDREW THE FORMER ITEM AND THE U.N. DECOLONIALIZATION COMMITTEE SHELVED THE LATTER.

SCRANTON SAID ONE POSSIBLE REASON FOR NORTH KOREA'S PULLBACK WAS THAT THE COMMUNIST REGIME HAD LOST CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT AMONG THIRD WORLD STATES.

HE SAID "THERE HAVE BEEN RUMORS" THAT MOVES WERE AFOOT TO OPEN A DIALOGUE BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF THE UNITED STATES AND CHINA--A CONFERENCE LONG SOUGHT BY SUPPORTERS OF SOUTH KOREA.

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